

Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Team
December 19, 2014 // 10:00 am – 10:45 am

Decisions and Actions from Meeting

Decision	Notes
1. Accepted the November 14, 2014 meeting summary as final, with edits.	

Action	Assignment
1. Continue progress; prepare for updates at the January 23 rd meeting.	Each workgroup
2. Confirm if Table 1 in the Recovery Plan outline (pg. 22) is up to date, or if Bill McMillan has a newer version.	Ed Connor/Elizabeth Babcock
3. Confirm if the map in the Recovery Plan outline (pg. 34) is the official DPS map.	Elizabeth Babcock/Jeff Hard
4. Draft the December 19, 2014 meeting summary.	Claire Turpel

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Babcock welcomed participants and led introductions (*see end for a list of participants*). The Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Team (Recovery Team) reviewed the agenda and there were no changes. This conference call was intended to be an opportunity for Recovery Team members to touch base before the year end and be ready to start 2015.

Meeting Summary Review

A few Recovery Team members had sent edits to the November 14, 2014 draft meeting summary. In addition to the edits previously provided, the Recovery Team found a few more changes. Since the Recovery Team had consensus on those edits, they accepted the meeting summary as final.

Workgroup Progress Reports – Each of the three workgroups shared updates and progress since the November 14th meeting.

- Recovery Goals & Scenarios Workgroup
 - The workgroup is currently focused on finalizing the hiring process for the modeler who will do a significant portion of the recovery goals and scenarios work. They hope to have a final candidate soon.
 - After the modeler is hired, the workgroup will develop a general model structure and solicit feedback from steelhead biologists throughout the Puget Sound. A few technical Recovery Team members will work with the modeler in mid-January to develop the technical content that will be shared with local biologists. This information can be shared with the Recovery Team at the January 23, 2015 meeting.
- Watershed Template Workgroup
 - The workgroup will start developing guidance for a common framework in January.

- There will also be a smaller group to refine the portfolio of elements from the Hood Canal pilot project. This will ensure that there is a menu of recovery planning elements for habitat and fish that watersheds can use as they go through the development of their individual chapters. This smaller group will include some people from the workgroup but also Jed Moore from Nisqually and likely one or more representatives from the Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT).
- The workgroup will try to set a meeting schedule for the first half of 2015, once the Recovery Team's meeting schedule is set.
- Stresses & Pressures Workgroup
 - Workgroup members have had capacity constraints this fall and therefore have been unable to move forward since the September workgroup meeting. The hope is that more work can be accomplished in 2015.

Governor's Budget

The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) shared an update on the Governor's budget, which was released one day before this meeting. Notes included:

- The request for steelhead recovery planning was in PSP's budget request to the Governor, but was not included in the Governor's budget. The Governor's budget did include some funding for Chinook recovery implementation, though it was reduced somewhat from PSP's initial proposal.
 - There may be an opportunity to use some of the Chinook funding for steelhead benefits, though it is unclear at this time.
- The Governor's budget included \$800,000 for steelhead marine survival planning, in the budget for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- It was noted that while certain funding might be in the Governor's budget, the legislature is now the one to consider funding allocations.

Updates from NMFS

George Pess and Tim Beechie from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center are planning to present to the full Recovery Team at the January 23rd meeting. They will share information to help the Recovery Team organize the watershed template. They are also working on the Puget Sound status & trends monitoring, which could help inform the watershed-level work for steelhead recovery planning. From their presentation in January, the Recovery Team can consider if and how watershed assessments could help with the work to write the steelhead Recovery Plan.

NMFS has also been considering how to use the EDT model in the steelhead recovery planning work. There are some concerns about how the EDT model was used for Chinook recovery planning and a desire to see EDT used properly for steelhead recovery planning. Overall, NMFS is interested in the information that George and Tim will share at the January 23rd meeting, and seeing how that work could be integrated into the Recovery Plan.

Short-Term Assignments for Recovery Plan Outline

Elizabeth Babcock and Claire Turpel created a document identifying the short-term assignments identified at the November 14th meeting when the Recovery Team fully reviewed the draft outline. This format can be used as the Recovery Team continues to draft the Recovery Plan.

Joe Anderson noted that two of the short-term assignments could be useful in his workgroup's effort to reach out to local biologists: the information in the Biological Background section (pg. 19) and Table 1 (pg. 22).

Administrative Updates

- Travel reimbursements for any previous meeting can be submitted to Triangle Associates at any time. These are available to non-NOAA employees for travel to and from Recovery Team meetings.
- The Google Drive is an excellent source of background information, documents, etc.
- The Recovery Team is in the final stages of scheduling the February – June 2015 monthly meetings; Elizabeth and Claire will share those dates as soon as possible.

Other Comments

Amilee Wilson from NMFS thanked the Recovery Team for being willing to consider hatchery and harvest management issues while developing the Recovery Plan.

Next Meeting

The next Recovery Team meeting will be January 23, 2015, from 10am – 3pm at the NOAA-Sandpoint location in Seattle.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Participants

Participant	Affiliation
Joe Anderson	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Elizabeth Babcock	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Ned Currence	Nooksack
Ken Currens	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Jeanette Dorner	Puget Sound Partnership
Jeff Hard	Northwest Science Center
Thom Johnson	Point No Point Treaty Council
Steve Leider	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Randy McIntosh	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Susan O'Neil	Long Live the Kings
Tristan Peter-Contesse	Puget Sound Partnership
David Price	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Amilee Wilson	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Claire Turpel	Triangle Associates